

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SALT T 01695 141840Z

45

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00 ACDE-00

/031 W

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P R 141705Z MAR 74

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2267

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 1695

EXDIS/SALT

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: JOHNSON-SEменов LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MARCH 14,
(SALT TWO -- 409)

1. AT LUNCH BY SOVDEL FOR USDEL TODAY THERE WERE NO IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OR ESPECIALLY NEW INSIGHTS. IN REGARD TO MY QUESTION TO SEMENOV AS TO WHETHER HE AND SOVDEL REALLY UNDERSTOOD AND FELT THAT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO TRANSMIT TO MOSCOW FULL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITION, HE SAID THAT HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT EVERYTHING WE HAD SAID WAS TRANSMITTED IN FULL TO MOSCOW WITHOUT ANY "SUBJECTIVE BIAS." HE MADE STATEMENT WITH REGARD TO HIS ATTEMPTING TO INTERPRET TO MOSCOW "NUANCES" THAT HE THOUGHT HE SAW IN OUR POSITION, BUT THAT HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT THEY WERE AND HE WAS FEARFUL OF GOING TOO FAR BECAUSE IF HE DID DO SO "HE WOULD GET HIS HEAD TWISTED OFF." I WAS NOT ABLE TO GET ANY ELUCIDATION ON WHAT HE THOUGHT THESE NUANCES WERE. (IN ANOTHER CONVERSATION WITH A USDEL OFFICER, A SOVDEL OFFICER SAID THAT HE FELT THAT IN EMPHASIS WE WERE NOW GIVING TO "ALLOWANCE FOR BOMBERS" AND OVERALL AGGREGATES WE WERE LAYING LESS EMPHASIS ON SOVIET HEAVY ICBM'S.)

SECRET

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PAGE 02 SALT T 01695 141840Z

2. IN HIS "NUANCED" WAY SEMENOV REPEATED HIS PLEA FOR MOVING

AHEAD ON LESS CONTROVERSIAL PORTIONS OF AN AGREEMENT AND THEREBY
DEFINING MORE IMPORTANT NON-AGREED PORTIONS AS WAY OF DEMONSTRATING
TO MOSCOW, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHO WERE SKEPTICS ON AGREEMENT,
THAT PROGRESS COULD BE MADE AND THEREBY FORCING LEADERSHIP DEEPLY
INVOLVED WITH MANY OTHER PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY ECONOMIC AND
AGRICULTURAL, TO FOCUS ON NECESSITY OF DECISIONS, "LEST THE
OPPORTUNITIES EXISTING IN 1974 BE MISSED." HE CITED HISTORY OF ABM
TREATY IN WHICH DELEGATIONS HAD BEEN ABLE TO MOVE DOWN TO
POINT IN WHICH THERE WERE ONLY A FEW UNRESOLVED CENTRAL ISSUES
AS EXAMPLE OF PROCEDURE THAT "STRENGTHENED THE HAND OF THOSE
WHO WERE FOR THE TREATY." JOHNSON

SECRET

NNN

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